

Specification Amendment

[0016] Referring now to FIGURES 2, 3 and 4, the hollow rigid stiffener 26 is illustrated in detail. As shown, the hollow rigid stiffener 26 includes a plurality of radial serrations 32 having outwardly extending sharp points thereon formed on the outer surface of the stiffener 26. A flange 34 is formed on the end of the stiffener 26 towards which the sharp points of the serrations 32 extend. As shown in FIGURE 2, the stiffener 26 is inserted in the end portion of the plastic pipe 15 disposed within the outer pipe 22 with the flange 34 positioned above the end of the plastic pipe 15. The flange 34 extends into close proximity with the inside surfaces of the outer pipe 22.